

STATE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF IOWA

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

# The Annals of Iowa

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Volume 5 | Number 3 ( 1901)

pps. 232-233

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## Revolutionary Heroes Honored

ISSN 0003-4827

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### Recommended Citation

"Revolutionary Heroes Honored." *The Annals of Iowa* 5 (1901), 232-233.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.2749>

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ates eight "names most prominently associated with glacial work." These names are those of Penck, Giekie, Croll and Schmidt in Europe, and Chamberlain, McGee, Dawson and Leverett in this country. "As long," writes Dr. Keyes, "as geology lasts the works of these scientists will remain classics." Our readers will share the pride of the editor of THE ANNALS, when we state that Messrs. McGee and Leverett were born in Iowa. The first named is in the prime of life with the promise of many years of scientific study before him. Mr. Leverett is still a young man, whose residence is Denmark, Lee county, Iowa. Each has made a world-wide reputation as an original investigator.

In this connection—as a scientist of the same distinguished class—we may also include the name of Hon. Frank Springer, now of Las Vegas, N. M. He is a paleontologist of the highest rank, the author of original work which is known and recognized in all enlightened countries. He also was born in Iowa.

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### REVOLUTIONARY HEROES HONORED.

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A very commendable disposition exists on the part of many people besides the Sons and Daughters of the Revolution to do honor to their illustrious ancestry, and this in numberless instances has been productive of results which meet with widespread approval. Several years ago Mr. Kendall Young, the founder of the library at Webster City which bears his name, while on a visit to the state of Maine, ascertained that the monument erected at the grave of his grandfather—one of the famous Boston Tea Party of 1773—had nearly disappeared through the natural decay of its material. He immediately ordered the erection of a monument of solid Maine granite at the patriot grave, with an inscription setting forth the memorable service of his ancestor. Quite recently Mrs. George White Potter of Burlington, Iowa, has succeeded in establishing the genealogical record, from the

immigrant ancestor, of her great-grandfather, Silas Aldrich, a soldier of the revolution. The place where he was buried being well known, Mrs. Potter wrote the secretary of war, suggesting the removal of the remains of Silas Aldrich to the military cemetery at West Point. Secretary Root at once ordered this to be done, and the removal and reinterment were carried out under his direction. The military history of Silas Aldrich runs in this wise: he joined Washington's army as a water boy at the age of nine years, but as soon as he was old enough he enlisted and served under Col. Humphrey Greeton, as a soldier, until the close of the war. He was at Valley Forge during the terrible winter of 1777-8 when the army endured such terrible hardships, of which he had his full share. The official records show that he participated in many battles.

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### DISCOVERY OF MINERAL COAL IN AMERICA.

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The most important factor in the recent unparalleled advancement of our industrial activities is the existence, under easily accessible conditions, of exhaustless quantities of cheap fuel in the form of mineral coal. The discovery of this substance in America has been commonly ascribed in time to the latter part of the seventeenth century, and in place to Pennsylvania. We now know that there are still earlier records.

It is therefore a fact that deserves more than passing mention, that the first discovery of mineral coal in this country did not take place in regions first settled by the white man, in districts where it is now most extensively mined, and known to be widely distributed, but in the very heart of the American continent. Among the very earliest discoveries are those in the Mississippi valley, very close to the present boundaries of our own State. This was nearly fifty years before coal was recognized in the Pennsylvania region.

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